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NEWS RELEASE

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**THREE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH
MAKING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE
IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that three Sacramento residents have been charged with fraud offenses related to claims for disaster assistance arising out of Hurricane Katrina.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud, and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force-chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division-includes the FBI, the United States Inspectors General community, the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, and others.

These cases were specifically investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and United States Postal Inspection Service.

Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting these cases, described each matter as follows:

- United States v. TRUDY MARIA DAVIS: On February 8, 2007, TRUDY MARIA DAVIS, 43, of Sacramento, was charged with three counts of mail fraud, two counts of making false claims to an agency of the United States (the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)), and one count of theft of United States property. TRUDY MARIA DAVIS is alleged to have stolen \$4,358 of funds allocated for disaster relief victims.
- United States v. NAISHA CHANTELL DAVIS: On February 8, 2007, NAISHA CHANTELL DAVIS, 25, of Sacramento, was charged with mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, making a false claims to an agency of the United States (FEMA), and false representation of a social security number.
- United States v. LAWRENCE HAROLD WILLIAMS: On February 15, 2007, LAWRENCE HAROLD WILLIAMS, 24, was charged with three counts of mail fraud, two counts of making false claims to an agency of the United States (FEMA), two counts of theft of United States property, and two counts of making false statements to the United States. During the investigation, WILLIAMS is

specifically charged with making a false statement to Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. WILLIAMS is alleged to have stolen \$7,553.76 of funds allocated for disaster relief victims.

All three defendants were arrested this morning by Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, and Inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service. Each defendant is scheduled to appear for arraignment and detention proceedings in United States District Court, before Magistrate Judge Kimberly J. Mueller, at 2:00 pm today.

For the theft of United States property offenses each defendant faces ten years imprisonment, for the false claim offenses each defendant faces five years imprisonment, for the mail fraud offenses each defendant faces 20 years imprisonment, for the false statement offenses WILLIAMS faces five years imprisonment, for the false representation of a social security number offense NAISHA CHANTELL DAVIS faces five years imprisonment, and for the aggravated i.d. theft offense NAISHA CHANTELL DAVIS faces a minimum mandatory two years consecutive imprisonment. Each defendant, upon conviction, also is subject to a \$250,000 fine per count and a three year term of supervision. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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